being in the Central or States Sectors. Allocations of gas are made considering availability, best economic use, requirements of the core sector etc.

(c) to (e) Allocations of gas are generally made on the basis of its Imputed Economic Value, with priority being given to the power, fertilizer and sponge iron sectors. Allocations of gas made so far have more or less followed these priorities.

Agreement with ABN Amro Bank

1244. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has signed an agreement with ABN Amro Bank and its subsidiary Meespierson for a loan of 80 million dollars to finance its oil import; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loan is available for import of crude oil and petroleum products for a period of 60 days from the date of signing of the agreement (17-7-93) at floating rate of interest linked with LIBOR.

Exploration of Petroleum Products of Nagapattinam

1245. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC are exploring for petroleum products off the share of Nagapattinam;

(b) whether Narimanam in Taryire District will have an LPG gas filling centre; and

(c) whether necessary survey in this regard has been undertaking by the ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MRL is setting up a LPG separation plant near Narimanam. (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Extension of Rait way line from Knmargbat to Agartala in Triptira

1246. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to extend existing railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala in Tripura;

(b) what steps have been taken to establish railway line between Agartala, the capital of Tripura and rest of the country; and

(c) when the actual work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The final location survey for extending the Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been taken up and is expected to be completed during 1993-94. Further consideration of the project will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Unused Railway Land

1247. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 60,000 hectares of land is lying vacant and unused with the Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recent tour of the Railway Board officials under the leadership of the Minister of Railways was intended to study land management practices and particularly commercial use of Railway land in Germany, France and Sweden: and

(c) if so, what are the conclusions of the Railway Minister's mission; and whether Government has previously considered this land use issue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes. Sir. However, the vacant railway land is required by Railways for its future developmental works.

(b) The delegation visited U.K. and France, and a part of the delegation later visited Sweden also. The delegation did not visit Germany.

(c) The delegation gathered information on the nature and scope of commercial exploitation of land/properties by Railways in these countries, methodologies adopted, organisational set-up, etc. The subject of commercial exploitation of railway land/airspace had earlier been considered and deferred. However, the experience gathered from the foreign visit will be utilised, with necessary modifications to suit the Indian conditions, while formulating future proposals in this regard.

Awarding the Order of Supply of Casnub Bogies

1248. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the issues involved in regard to which three big suppliers started litigation with railways at the time of awarding order of supply of Casnub Bogies for the year 1992-93;

(b) what was the outcome of the said litigation as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(c) whether adverse orders were passed by Supreme Court against Railway Board in the matter of allocation of higher quantity to smaller suppliers; and

(d) if not, the reasons for adopting old formula once again in the existing tender?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The three bogie suppliers started litigation on three issues viz. (a) the legality of the Railway adopting dual pricing policy, (b) the correctness of the price, and (c) quantity allocations to various tenderers.

(b) The Court upheld the right of the Railway Administration to adopt dual pricing policy in certain circumstances.

With regard to price, the Court directed the railway authorities to examine the cost aspects and work out an appropriate price.

Regarding quantity distribution, the Apex Court while upholding the allotment made by the competent authority to small manufacturers on the ground that they did not desire to disturb the allocations at that stage left it to railway authorities for making necessary adjustments in the next year's tender, taking into consideration the allotment already made in 92-93.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In the next tender, for quantity distribution, weightage was also given to prices quoted in addition to the performance.

Order of Casnub Bogies

1249. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the order of higher quantity of Casnub Bogies was awarded in the year 1991-92 to less number of suppliers, in comparison to earlier years;

(b) if so, what was the consideration of awarding higher qunatity of order to lesser number of suppliers; and

(c) what is the reason of reduction of said quntity this year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. Orders were placed on all the suppliers as in the previous years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quantities are computed on th e basis of wagon production requirement.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर पुस्तक-पत्रिकाएं बेचने की दुकानों का आवंटन

1250. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे स्टेशनों पर पुस्तक-पत्रिकाएं बेचने वाली दुकानों के आवंटन के संबंध में मानदण्ड क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उक्त मानदण्ड का उल्लंघन करते हुए पुस्तक-पत्रिकाएं बेचने वाली दुकानों का आवंटन किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में पिछले दो वर्षों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी॰ के॰ जाफ़र शरीफ़) : (क) से (ग) बुक स्टाल के सभी नए ठेके बेरोजगार स्नातकों की सहकारी समितियों, एसोसिएशनों तथा वास्तविक कामगारों/रेलवे बुक स्टालों के वेंडरों की सहकारी समितियों और अलग-अलग बेरोजगार स्नातकों, आदि के लिए निश्चित रखे जाते हैं। पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान, विशेष मामले के रूप में खानेद पिछार रेलवे स्टेशन पर केवल एक बुक स्टाल का आवंटन किया गया है।